

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is NEPA and an Environmental Impact Statement?

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) provides guidance to federal government officials to ensure environmental protection is addressed within the planning of major federal actions. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared when a proposed action has the potential for significant impact on the natural or human environment or significant public controversy.

What is the purpose of this EIS?

The purpose of this EIS is to evaluate various location alternatives and determine if there are effects to park resources and resources identified by the public. This will enable the Park to make a reasoned decision about whether, and where, to locate the Arlington County and Vicinity Rowing Facility.

What is the status of the NEPA planning process at George Washington Memorial Parkway?

The Parkway has initiated the first studies in the development of a Draft EIS which is scheduled for release in Spring 2005 for public review and comment. During the initial stages of the planning process, NPS is accepting public comments and coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies.

What is the role of public opinion in the decision making process for the site selection?

The role of public involvement in the NEPA process is to review the planning process and comment during periodic comment periods or anytime throughout the process when beneficial input is helpful. The role of individual citizens and interest groups is to actively participate in the process by informing the Park about issues, concerns and opportunities regarding the alternatives sites proposed for assessment.

How can I get more information about NEPA?

In addition to general guidelines laid out in NEPA legislation, NPS has prepared detailed written guidance on implementation of NEPA. The primary source of guidance is the 2001 Management Policies and Director's Orders, Handbooks, and Reference Manuals. Director's Order 12 provides guidelines for NEPA implementation and can be found at [www.http://data2.itc.nps.gov/npspolicy/DOrders.cfm](http://data2.itc.nps.gov/npspolicy/DOrders.cfm).

Background

PARK PURPOSE

George Washington Memorial Parkway was established through the 1930 Capper-Cramton Act, to: (1) preserve the Potomac River shoreline from pollution and commercial development; (2) provide for a variety of recreational needs of the Washington metropolitan area; (3) provide a scenic memorial roadway to the Nation's Capital and Mount Vernon Estate; and (4) function as part of a comprehensive park, parkway, and playground system of the Nation's Capital. Any action proposed within the parkway boundaries must fulfill the park purpose.

PROJECT TIMELINE

1993	Arlington County completes Arlington County Riverfront Inventory and Analysis Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force appointed
1995	Water-Based Recreational Facility Task Force completes Feasibility Study for a Boathouse Facility
1996	Senator Robb pledges support for the boathouse, Congressman Moran seeks support for the project from NPS
1998	Congress directs NPS to study potential sites
1999	NPS begins feasibility study and needs assessment survey
2000	NPS conducts a Public Open House NPS receives over 150 letters and emails registering comment during a Public Comment Period
2002	NPS issues Facility & Site Analysis for a Boathouse on the Potomac River in Arlington County and Vicinity identifying a need for an EIS
May 2004	Notice of Intent for the Environmental Impact Statement published in the Federal Register
June 2004	Public Meeting/Open House for the EIS
Summer 2004	Field Work and Completion of Individual Resource Studies
Summer 2004 / Spring 2005	Draft EIS Preparation
Spring 2005	Draft EIS Distribution
Spring / Summer 2005	Public Review of Draft EIS and Public Meeting
Fall / Winter 2005	Prepare and Distribute Final EIS
Spring 2006	Record of Decision